

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 063435

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 3113 ACTION SECSTATE MAR 11.

QUOTE: S E C R E T LAGOS 3113

NODIS

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE AND USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

E.O. 11652: GDSR

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: MINI-SUMMIT IN LAGOS WITH US AND UK

REF: STATE 062816(3)

1. GOOD IDEA.

2. FROM FMG POINT OF VIEW, MINI-SUMMIT PROPOSAL CAN BE EXPECTED
REMAIN ALIVE EVEN IF ALL-PARTIES MEETING ON RHODESIA FALLS
THROUGH. MEANWHILE WE APPLAUD REFTEL'S LINKAGE OF THE TWO
MEETINGS AS A WAY OF ENLISTING NIGERIAN LEVERAGE ON RECALCITRANT
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MALTA/SALISBURY INVITEES TO THE NEW YORK TALKS.

3. I AM CONCERNED THAT UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING KANO AND SAME
CONSIDERATIONS ON RHODESIA THAT GARBA VOICED TO AMBASSADOR
YOUNG (USUN 00849) MAY BE AFFECTING OBASANJO'S HIGH EXPECTA-
TIONS FOR FELICITOUS RESULTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. (WE
ARE STRUCK BY ALMOST VERBATIM SIMILARITY BETWEEN PORTIONS OF

WHAT GARBA TOLD YOUNG REGARDING BRITISH AND US ATTITUDES ON A-A PLAN AND INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, AND WHAT HE SAID TO ME FOUR NIGHTS AGO ON THE SAME SUBJECT. SEE LAGOS 2892.) I BELIEVE IT WOULD THEREFORE BE HIGHLY ADVISABLE THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG SUGGEST TO GARBA THAT OBASANJO BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF OUR REACTION TO THE MINI-SUMMIT PROPOSAL. I DOUBT GARBA CAN GET THROUGH TO OBASANJO DIRECTLY. HE LEAVE OYO STATE TOMORROW MORNING FOR SEVERAL DAYS' TOUR OF OGUN STATE. GARBA MAY DECIDE TO CONTACT YARJ ADUA, WHO IS MINDING THE STORE IN LAGOS AND IS PROBABLY THE ONLY SURE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO OBASANJO. ALTERNATIVELY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YAR'ADUA MYSELF. LET ME KNOW GARBA'S REACTION AND DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS. (IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO LEARN WHETHER THE MINI-SUMMIT IDEA COMES FROM OR HAS BEEN APPROVED BY OBASANJO. MY GUESS IS NO ON BOTH COUNTS, BUT I BELIEVE OBASANJO WOULD CONCUR.)

4. IN THE EVENT TRIP TO KANO IS CANCELLED, FOLLOWING ARE POSSIBLE APRIL 2 EVENTS IN LAGOS IN ADDITION TO CONTINUED BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF STATE OR A POSSIBLE 'MINI-SUMMIT':
(A) DEDICATION OF NEW EMBASSY;
(B) BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT INVOLVING AMERICAN EFFORT;
(C) NATIONAL MUSEUM EXHIBIT ENTITLED 'TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF NIGERIAN CULTURE';
(D) SIGNING OF BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT;
(E) WREATH LAYING CEREMONY, TAFARA BALEWA SQUARE;
(F) BOAT TOUR OF HARBOR INCLUDING RECENTLY OPENED DOCK FACILITIES
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AT TIN CAN ISLAND;
(G) SMALL FISHING VILLAGE WITH SELF-HELP PROJECT SPONSORED BY INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHICAGO (30-40 MINUTES BY BOAT OR 35 MINUTES BY ROAD IF ALL TRAFFIC IS CLEARED). JACK WATSON OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF REPORTEDLY HAS INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT.

5. OF THESE PROJECTS ONLY THE LAST ONE WOULD PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL LOCAL COLOR OF INTEREST TO PRESS. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT THE FMG MIGHT COME UP WITH SOME OTHER MORE EXCITING SUGGESTION IF ASKED TO SUGGEST EVENTS FOR A SECOND DAY IN LAGOS.

6. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE TIME HAS COME WHEN WE MUST CONFIRM TO THE FMG WHETHER OR NOT THE PRESIDENT WILL GO TO KANO. THE FMG HAS TOLD US THAT IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE KANO TRIP WITHOUT THE INCLUSION OF THE KADAWA PROJECT; IT HAS NOT SUGGESTED ANY ALTERNATIVE TO KADAWA AND WE KNOW OF NONE. UNLESS THE KADAWA PROJECT CAN BE RECONSIDERED IN WASHINGTON, I THEREFORE BELIEVE WE SHOULD INFORM THE FMG NOW RPT NOW THAT THE SECOND DAY OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WILL BE IN LAGOS RATHER THAN KANO. IT MAY BE MANY DAYS BEFORE THE FATE OF THE

MINI-SUMMIT PROPOSAL IS DECIDED AND I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD
WAIT THAT LONG BEFORE DECIDING ON KANO. MANY LOGISTICAL
ARRANGEMENTS URGENTLY NEED TO BE MADE IN KANO THIS COMING
WEEK, BUT WE WILL GET NO COOPERATION FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO
HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT KANO IS OFF THE ITINERARY UNLESS THE
KADAWA PROJECT IS REINSTATED. EASUM
UNQUOTE VANCE

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